

thrust of this legislation, the importance of making sure we include the Afghan people at the grassroots level in decisions that affect their future.

Again, I want to thank the chairman, Mr. LANTOS, and the bipartisan support this overall effort has had; and I urge the adoption of the amendment.

Mr. LANTOS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I will be delighted to yield.

Mr. LANTOS. I want to thank the gentleman for his singularly thoughtful and carefully crafted amendment, and I'm very pleased to support it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by my distinguished colleague and my friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

This amendment seeks to promote the empowerment of citizens at the local level in the decision-making process, including reconstruction and economic development.

One of the key elements necessary to achieve success in Afghanistan is enhancing and promoting citizen participation in the reconstruction and economic development efforts in that country.

Citizens making decisions is a critical part in a democratic society, and this will enhance Afghanistan's political and economic institutions. Local participation, local decision-making will allow the Afghan people to take charge of their own lives and make decisions based on the needs of their local communities.

In addition to ensuring security, fighting the illicit illegal narcotics trade, related terrorist activities, developing the infrastructure for a sustainable democratic central government, the economic situation must also improve if Afghans are to have confidence in their own future and if they are to build upon the progress they have achieved thus far.

A lack of success in the economic forum has the potential to undermine political developments. It could risk demoralizing the aspirations of Afghan citizens and could jeopardize their ability to actively shape their destiny.

The United States must work hard to ensure that Afghanistan is never again a haven for terrorists, a major source of narcotics, or a source of instability or oppression towards its citizens.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for introducing this important amendment. I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

And before I yield the remainder of our time to my good friend and our fearless leader, Chairman LANTOS, I want to thank the excellent staff that

has been working on our Republican side with the Democratic side on forging this strong bill; and perhaps next time, Mr. LANTOS, we will come to the floor wearing tie-dyed T-shirts and love beads and singing Kumbaya.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of our time to Chairman LANTOS.

Mr. LANTOS. As we close discussion and debate, Mr. Chairman, let me first express my appreciation to my friend and colleague, the ranking Republican member of the committee, for her exceptional leadership on this matter. Let me thank all of my Republican and Democratic colleagues who have worked so hard on this matter.

But I particularly want to express my personal thanks to the committee staff on both sides, specifically, Matthew Zweig and John Mackey on the Republican side of the committee staff, as well as all other members of the Republican staff, and on our side, Manpreet Anand, Robin Roizman, David Fite and our extraordinary general counsel, David Abramowitz.

We have done good bipartisan work, and I think the Congress did some useful work today.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of our time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) having assumed the chair, Mr. POMEROY, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2446) to reauthorize the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5:15 p.m.

□ 1717

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR) at 5 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 5, STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privi-

leged report (Rept. No. 110-179) on the resolution (H. Res. 464) providing for consideration of the Senate bill (S. 5) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 65, LUMBEE RECOGNITION ACT

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-180) on the resolution (H. Res. 465) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 65) to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### AFGHANISTAN FREEDOM AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 453 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2446.

□ 1718

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2446) to reauthorize the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. ANDREWS (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 110-174 by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) had been discussed of.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. KIRK of Illinois.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. KUCINICH of Ohio.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for the second vote in this series.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. KIRK

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.